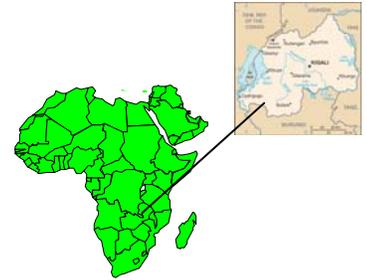




*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
Status Report
May 2003 to September 2004*

Rwanda



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Rwanda is estimated at 7.95 million people, with life expectancy estimates at 39.2 years. Predominate languages in Rwanda include Kinya-rwanda (official) universal Bantu vernacular, French (official), English (official), and Kiswahili (Swahili) used in commercial centers, with a literacy rate estimated at 70.4%.

Rwanda is a rural country with about 90% of the population engaged in (mainly subsistence) agriculture. It is the most densely populated country in Africa, landlocked with few natural resources and minimal industry. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,300.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 9% with 250,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS reported in 2003, "The vast majority of people live in rural areas, where the HIV/AIDS epidemic has caught up with the prevalence rates of the urban centres. Reasons for this increase appear to point to the period many spent in refugee camps from 1990–1994. Similarly, the prevalence rates across all prefectures are quite similar and suggest a well-established epidemic."

Military HIV/AIDS Information

There are no reliable estimates of the size of the Rwandan Defense Force (RDF). Moreover, Rwanda has not performed forcewide HIV testing, making current prevalence rates for the military unavailable; however, it is believed that the HIV infection rate is higher in the military than the general population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

Initial program steps have concentrated on informing and training a few representatives of the RDF about HIV/AIDS prevention and the services offered by DHAPP.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military to Military

DHAPP funded RDF member participation in the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana, and 2 Rwandan health care professionals' attendance at the DHAPP-sponsored *Military International HIV Training Program (MIHTP)* in San Diego, California.

Contractor-Based Assistance

None during this reporting period.

Clinical Provider Training

DHAPP funded the attendance of the Director of Medical Services and the Head of Public Health Division of the RDF, respectively, at the MIHTP.

Interoperability

None during this reporting period

PEPFAR

Rwanda has been identified as a focus country in the *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief* (PEPFAR), which was announced during the 2003 State of the Union Address to Congress. In August 2004, a representative of Drew University (Los Angeles, California) met with RDF and American Embassy officials to determine roles and responsibilities for implementing HIV/AIDS efforts on behalf of the RDF. Rwanda included in its PEPFAR country operating plan a proposal to assess the



A peer educator gives an HIV prevention lecture to Rwandan soldiers in the field.

clinical capacity of the RDF to manage and treat HIV.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

None during this reporting period.

Number of Troops Trained

None during this reporting period.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

None during this reporting period.

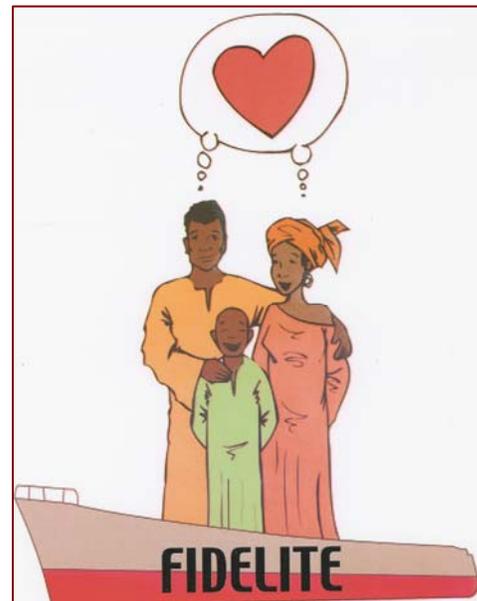
Counseling and Testing (CT)

None during this reporting period.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

None during this reporting period.

Mass Awareness



Posters stress HIV prevention through fidelity with one partner.